



Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, Ca 94915

<http://www.gerstlepark.com>

Spring, 2000

News

The Spring Fling is Here Again

Once again, the GPNA will sponsor our annual Spring Fling for neighborhood children and their families on Saturday, April 22nd at 11:00am. The event will be held in Gerstle Park and has always been lots of fun for kids of all ages. There will be an egg hunt, a visit from the Spring Bunny, a raffle and lots of exciting activities to celebrate the arrival of warm weather and sunshine. So, please mark your calendars and join your neighbors for the annual hilarity. And if you would like to help out with dying eggs, hiding eggs or baking goodies, please call Rachel Tracy at 721-0761. This event has drawn a huge crowd in recent years and help is always appreciated.

Annual Holiday Decorating Contest: And the Winners Are...

Gerstle Park twinkled and shone with spectacular neighborhood spirit this holiday season. There is nothing more festive than beautiful homes decorated with holiday trimmings and this year we outdid ourselves – so much so, in fact, that it was difficult to pick contest winners. A big applause for all who decorated.

The grand prize, a dinner for two at the Panama Hotel, went to 350 Clorinda Avenue for their amazing light display.

Second prize, a Pennzoil oil change, went to 341 Clorinda Avenue for their beautiful lights and jolly Santa Claus.

Third prize, a Touchless car wash, went to 117 San Rafael Street for their lovely Victorian holiday decorations.

A special mention for all of upper Clorinda for their exquisite "Avenue of Lights." The beautiful blue lights that lined the road were most impressive indeed.

And thanks to...

A special thank-you to the neighborhood businesses who so generously donated prizes: Panama Hotel & restaurant; Pennzoil 10 Minute Oil Change; San Rafael Touchless Car Wash.

Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

The GPNA's annual clean-up day will take place on Saturday, April 8th. Every year we sponsor a free event for neighborhood residents to dispose of organic yard waste in dumpsters. The dumpsters will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 in two locations: In front of Short School on Marin Street and in front of the bocce ball courts at 550 B Street.

Volunteers are needed to monitor the dumpsters and spread the word about GPNA's great efforts for the neighborhood. Please contact Tom Obletz at 459-0149 for more information.

The clean-up day is sponsored by County Supervisor Hal Brown, Jr., who has been a great supporter of our neighborhood for many years. Patty Garbarino and Joe Garbarino, Jr. of Marin Sanitary Service are also sponsors of the event. We greatly appreciate the help of these sponsors.

Open Space Update

Every day, more dog walkers, joggers, and hikers can be seen using the "secret" prize of our neighborhood: the open space above Gerstle Park. Before GPNA volunteers got involved, this area was overgrown with French broom to the extent that it was an unusable jungle. Clearing the trails and overgrown hillsides has been an ongoing project of the GPNA for several years. Recently, the removal of French broom has been completed on the sides of the Grove Street entrance trail. Currently, broom is being removed from the valley and the hillside adjacent to this trail. This is a huge task and requires unending vigilance, as broom is a feisty enemy. If you would like to help, please call Hugo Landecker at 456-0221. Volunteers are

This newsletter has been gladly sponsored by Vince Sheehan Realty & Ross Valley Mortgage.

New Home Alert: 225 Bayview Street

A single-family home is being proposed for one of two adjacent vacant lots on the south side of Bayview Street between Marin and D Streets. The plans call for a windowless modern expanse facing the street, fronted by an onsite parking space. This new home will be situated between two brown shingle Craftsman-style homes. Currently the entire block is harmonious and charming architecturally.

Steve Patterson, who also lives on Bayview Street, invited interested neighbors to a meeting at his home to discuss the proposed project with the developer and architect. Twenty-five Gerstle Park residents attended this spirited meeting and opinion was unanimous that the exterior of the proposed house did not fit the character of the neighborhood. All those concerned need to follow this project as it progresses and make their opinions heard. The next step is for a hearing before the zoning administrator at city hall. As we went to press, this hearing had not yet been scheduled. Please contact Steve Patterson at 453-6541 for more information.

Plant a Tree for Neighborhood Shade

The City of San Rafael is in the process of choosing sites to plant trees in our neighborhood and throughout town. If you would like your home to be considered as a possible site for new trees, please call Rhonda Kutter, our Landscaping Chairperson, at 457-5528. (If you are a renter and would like a tree planted, ask your landlord for approval.) Rhonda is planning to present a list of owner-approved sites to the city by the end of March.

The City will assist you in learning how to care for the tree, but asks for your help in keeping the new tree watered for the first 3-4 years, or until it's well established. The city will be planting several varieties of trees, depending on the size of the space available. Elms, which are one of the hallmarks of our beautiful neighborhood, can be planted in the larger strips between the streets and sidewalks. Remember, March 31st is not that far away, so don't delay!!

Save the Oaks!

As you may have noticed, some of our oak trees are fighting a battle against bark beetles and ambrosia beetles. Yet there are many beautiful oak trees thriving in our open spaces, and perhaps in your own back yard. It is not too late to go on the offensive to protect these trees.

Inspect for beetles regularly, looking for stained bark surfaces and reddish-brown boring dust. Look near the tree base (the most likely spot) and also up to chest level. If you see dark brown or black globules of sap, this is a sign that your tree is more heavily infected.

If you find beetles in an early stage of infestation, you can call a professional or try spraying yourself with the insecticide permethrin, commonly known as Astro. This insecticide has been shown to be effective against the beetles, especially as a preventative treatment, and it is relatively environmentally friendly. Spray in March and again in early August.

If the tree is heavily infected, you may need to have it downed and cover the stump and all of the wood with clear plastic for six months to prevent new beetles from emerging and attacking nearby oaks.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the pamphlet "Protecting Live Oaks against Bark Beetles and Ambrosia Beetles," call 499-4204. Or, try calling Bioscapes (362-0660), a professional tree care company that has had good success in treating ailing trees here in Marin County.

Website Update

www.gerstlepark.com has seen over 200 visitors in the past couple months – and it is about to get even more exciting! In the very near future, we'll be adding a message board (so friends and neighbors can discuss issues and ideas), and feedback forms for the GPNA and its various committees (so you can be sure your idea is heard.)

Remember, www.gerstlepark.com hosts meeting minutes, contact information for the board, this newsletter, and useful links to our community and beyond – use it to see what we're up to, as well as to get involved in your neighborhood! And, as always, your feedback and ideas are always appreciated.

Send them to: feedback@gerstlepark.com

Gerstle Park Kiosk

The GPNA is working on the development of a "kiosk" (an enclosed neighborhood bulletin board) to be installed at the entrance to the lower part of Gerstle Park. The City of San Rafael's Park and Recreation Director, Carlene McCart, has agreed that the City will donate the money for materials. Long-time Gerstle Park resident and talented architect, Bob Forsher, has donated his time to design the kiosk, and Bill Baker, our own VP, and Hugo Landecker (a GPNA founding father) have volunteered to build and install it. Bob is working on a design that will make the kiosk highly functional and beautiful. We hope it will become a central place to put neighborhood notices, neighborhood and city calendars of events, emergency phone numbers, park regulations, park reservations, etc. We are very excited about this addition to our park and are looking forward to installing it by early summer.

GPNA Monthly Meetings



Remember, You're Invited!

(In fact, we need a new secretary!)

GPNA meetings are on the 2nd

Wednesday of every month at 7:30

p.m. Upcoming dates are: March 8,

April 11, May 10th and June 14th.

2000 Calendar of Events

April 8	Neighborhood Clean-up Day
April 22	Spring Fling
June 24	Garage Sale
September 9	Annual Picnic
October 25	Annual Meeting
October 31	Haloween Decorating Contest
December 14	Christmas Caroling
December 25	Christmas Decorating Contest

Membership Report

As chairperson of the GPNA Membership Committee, one of my duties is to create an up-to-date listing of GPNA members. While I'm sure many of you have been members in the past, you may not have had an opportunity yet to complete this year's membership application. The membership period is from November 1, 1999 through October 31, 2000. Annual dues are \$10.00 per household, \$5.00 for Seniors.

If you would like to become a member and contribute to all the great things the GPNA does for the neighborhood, please take a moment to fill out the form below and mail it off today, along with your enclosed check. Many thanks for your continued support.

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

Membership Application

Please complete the information below and return with your check to:
GPNA, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

ok to include your address on our mailing list?

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

New Member Renewal

Amount Enclosed*: \$ _____

*Annual donation: **\$10.00** per household (**\$5.00** seniors) - 1 voting member

Payment Type: _____

Term of membership is from November 1st to November 1st

How did you hear about GPNA? Friend Newsletter Other: _____

Welcome to GPNA!

Thank you Panama Hotel!

GPNA board members would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the good folks at the Panama Hotel & Restaurant. They have been kindly letting us hold our monthly board meetings at their fine establishment. It is always a pleasure to relax and soak in the wonderful ambiance of the Panama Restaurant.

Many thanks as well to all the following people who helped us deliver our winter newsletter. Your time and effort is truly appreciated.

Maureen Zeus	Gloria DeMaria
Deborah Green	Hugo Landecker
Mary Alice Nolan	Rachel Tracy
Rhonda Kutter	Debra Meltzer
Tina Yesson	Lauren Metzroth
Susan Salk	Lori Schifrin
Sandy Baker	Jan Bishop
Robin Raymond	Melanie Haiken
JoAnne Meyer	Ken Goudey
Ray/Roberta Kemp	Chris Clarke
Tom Oblatz	

2000 GPNA Board Members

Rachel Tracy , President	721-0761
Bill Baker , Vice President	460-9942
Tom Oblatz , Treasurer	459-0149
Tina Yesson , Membership	455-8671
Melanie Haiken , Newsletter	454-5848
Ken Goudey , Website	482-8391
Rhonda Kutter , Landscaping	457-5528
Jerry Yesson , Code Enforcement	455-8671



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Treasury Report

As of February 29, 2000, the GPNA's account balance is \$1,651.

There was no activity – either income or expenses – during the month of January. Please support your neighborhood association by paying your annual dues and volunteering for our wonderful events throughout the year.

Your Neighbors Are My References!!

- 323 Bayview St—shingle style Arts/Craft
- 322 Bayview St—English Tudor bungalow
- 231 Bayview St—shingle style Arts/Craft
- 153/155 Clark St—70's style duplex
- 523 C St—Victorian duplex
- 112 San Rafael Ave.—shingle style Arts/Craft
- 200 Marin St.—shingle style Arts/Craft

Fine Line Painting

"The Gerstle Park Specialist"

~Since 1987—Estimates-485-1493—prepped right to last~

Buying, Selling, Refinancing?

We will donate \$500 on each sale closed, and \$250 on each loan closed to the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association.

For a FREE MARKET ANALYSIS of your property, or to get a 24 HOUR APPROVAL for a refinance or Purchase loan, please call:

Vince Sheehan, Gerstle Park Homeowner and Broker of

Vince Sheehan Realty
302-2500 or 457-8988 (H)

&

Ross Valley Mortgage
485-4448

A very special thank you to **The Copy Shop and Printing Co.** (805 E Street, 457-5600) for giving us a neighborly discount on printing for this newsletter!